

REMARKS

Claims 27-31 are pending. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendments. For instance, the acronym "GFP" has been defined in claim 27 as "green fluorescent protein" as supported by the present specification at, for example, page 1, paragraph [0004]. New claim 29 is supported by the present specification at page 12, paragraph [0037]. New claim 30 is supported by the present specification at page 16, paragraph [0053]. Lastly, new claim 31 is supported by the present specification at page 10, paragraph [0026]. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants have attached a marked-up version of the claims to show the changes made.

Restriction Requirement

In the outstanding office action the Examiner has required election in the present application between the following groups:

Group I: claims 1-5 drawn to a protein complex;

Group II: claims 6-8 drawn to a nucleic acid;

Group III: claims 9-11 drawn to a fusion protein with  
antiparallel leu zipper;

Group IV: claims 12-19 drawn to a method of assembling a protein  
complex;

Group V: claims 20-21 drawn to a method of identifying a polypeptide using proteins;

Group VI: claims 22-24 drawn to a method of identifying a polypeptide from nucleic acid expressing a peptide;

Group VII: claims 25-26 drawn to a method of identifying a molecule inhibitor; and

Group VIII: claims 27-28 drawn to a method of detecting protein-protein interaction.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect the subject matter of Group VIII, directed to claims 27-28 (and newly added claims 29-31). Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the now cancelled non-elected subject matter.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Craig A. McRobbie (Reg. No. 42,874) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;  
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #42.874  
for Leonard R. Svensson, Reg. 30,330

LRS/CAM/mmi  
3759-0122P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 01/02/02)

Attachment: Version with Markings to show changes made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-26 were cancelled.

Claim 27 was amended as follows:

27. (Amended) A method of detecting protein-protein interaction comprising,

(a) producing a first fusion protein comprising a known polypeptide linked to a first green fluorescent protein (GFP) [GFP] fragment;

(b) producing a second fusion protein comprising a test polypeptide linked to a second GFP fragment, wherein association of the first and second GFP fragments results in a GFP that exhibits detectable fluorescence;

(c) allowing the first fusion protein to associate with the second fusion protein to form a complex mediated by the non-covalent association of the known polypeptide and test polypeptide; and[,]

(d) detecting reassembly of GFP, wherein reassembly of GFP indicates that the test polypeptide interacts with the known polypeptide.

Claims 29-31 were added.